

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer implemented apparatus for analyzing a manufacturing operation that contains a supply chain, said manufacturing operation having a plurality of manufacturing areas, said apparatus comprising:

a template for supplying a workspace to depict the supply chain related to the
5 manufacturing operation;

icons which are predefined to depict factors of a supply chain; and

a stencil for storing the icons associated with one of the manufacturing areas.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said icons are selected from the stencil and moved to the template.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 further includes a plurality of icons that are connected to show a supply chain flow.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 further includes at least one perspective template having at least one supply chain icon, the perspective template providing a pre-populated framework to evaluate the manufacturing operation.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 further includes at least one stencil selected from the group consisting of process flow stencil, logistics stencil, and environmental stencil.

6. The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said perspective template is selected from the group consisting of international template, logistics template, supplier template, and supplier process template.

7. A computer implemented supply chain analysis apparatus comprising:
a template for supplying a workspace to depict a supply chain related to a
manufacturing operation;
icons which are predefined to depict factors of an automotive supply chain; and
5 a stencil for storing icons associated with a vehicle manufacturing area.

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8. The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein said icons are selected from the stencil
and moved to the template.

9. The apparatus of Claim 7 further includes a plurality of icons that are
connected to show a supply chain flow.

10. The apparatus of Claim 7 further includes at least one perspective
template having at least one supply chain icon, the perspective template providing a
pre-populated framework to evaluate the manufacturing operation.

11. The apparatus of Claim 7 further includes at least one stencil selected
from the group consisting of process flow stencil, logistics stencil, and environmental
stencil.

12. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said perspective template is selected from the group consisting of international template, logistics template, supplier template, and supplier process template.

13. A method for supply chain mapping and analyzing of vehicle manufacturing related to parts and components comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) identifying a component or system for supply chain mapping;
- (b) providing the supply chain map with a part icon representing the part;
- (c) identifying the components used to assemble the part;
- (d) providing the supply chain map with supplier icons representing the suppliers who supply the components at various tiers; the supplier icons selected from the group consisting of: Tier One Supplier, Tier Two Supplier and Tier Three Supplier; and
- 10 (e) using icons to depict risks and opportunities associated with the supply chain of step (d).

14. The method of Claim 13 further includes identifying via placing icons on the supply chain at least one process related to each item of the components.

15. The method of Claim 13 further includes identifying via placing icons on the supply chain map at least one mode of transportation related to the components.

16. The method of Claim 13 further includes identifying via placing icons on the supply chain map border crossings related to the component.

17. The method of Claim 13 further includes hyperlinking an icon to an information screen.

18. The method of Claim 13 further includes modifying the supply chain map based on analyzing the supply chain.

19. The method of Claim 22 further includes hyperlinking an icon to a database.

